

Appendix II: Deep-sea coral distribution maps by taxon and region

This appendix includes maps showing known locations of structure-forming deep-sea corals in selected U.S. regions. These maps represent the coral records in the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program's national geodatabase. The maps are for illustrative purposes and are not meant to be used for management purposes. Due to the resolution of these maps, a single point may include more than one record.

The data do not represent density of coral cover but rather known locations of corals that have been compiled by the program to date and reported by taxonomic orders. Compilation of existing data is ongoing, and information on some orders may be incomplete. Reported coral locations are limited to where fishing or research has occurred. Thus, areas where no corals are shown on a map may reflect either an absence of corals or an absence of sampling. The data sources can be found on page 33 and include NOAA Fisheries bottom trawl survey and fisheries observer program databases, fishery management council databases, research cruise results, museum collections, and literature citations.

The boundaries for the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) shown on the maps are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to reflect areas claimed by the United States.

